

Delirium Poeticum:

OR, THE HISTORY OF

Poetical Lunacy.

BEING
CRITICAL and RATIONAL

REMARKS

On some of the most considerable Pieces
of POETRY, which have been published
within these ten Years past, chiefly Satire; by
Dr YOUNG, Mr POPE, The LAUREAT,
Messieurs FEILDING, RALPH, and other
less considerable Writers.

4.

*Great Wits are sure to Madnes near ally'd,
And thin Partitions do their Bounds divide.* DRYDEN.

L O N D O N:

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A N
ACCOUNT, &c.

GENTLEMEN,



OUR Nation has been observed by Foreigners to abound in *Maniacs*, more than any other upon the Face of the Earth, to our no small Reproach. The great Numbers confined in the celebrated Hospital of *Bethlehem*, besides others committed to the care of private Practitioners, and Multitudes

titudes that are suffer'd to run at large, and frequent *Coffee-Houses* and other Places of publick resort, may perhaps have given Occasion for this Remark.

M A N Y Reasons have been assigned for this odd Phænomenon, as the Climate, the Use of the Bible in the Vulgar Tongue, and our Custom of Feeding on an Animal Diet more than any of the Neighbouring Nations. But to me these Accounts are by no Means Satisfactory; therefore I hope it may in some Measure turn to the Emolument of the Publick, if I make it a present by your Hands of some Observations I have made on this Endemial Malady, in a Practise of near Thirty Years.

T H I S I undertake the more readily, because I find it has of late increas'd so much among us, that there is scarce a Family in the Nation entirely free from it. Upon this and other weighty Considerations,

tions, I shall with all possible brevity give you the sum of what I have been able to collect, upon the strictest enquiry, and closest attention to these miserable Lunatics. And in doing this, I hope to discharge the Duty of an honest Man, and a good Citizen, for I am fully convinced that we are all indispensably oblig'd to acquaint the World with every new Discovery we make, which may tend to the Cure of any Distemper Human Nature is liable to. And that it is a high Violation of the Duties of Society to keep those Secrets to ourselves with a Prospect of private Advantage, as is the Practise of too many, which, when discovered, may be of service to Millions. For my part that I may not be suspected of any such narrow and mercenary Views, I shall industriously conceal my Name and Place of Abode. Not to mention that Charity should operate in private.

'T IS a common but unfortunate Circumstance attending Madmen, that they can seldom be persuaded they are so. I shall therefore for the Advantage of such as shall in their *lucid intervals* peruse this Treatise, begin with a general History of Madness and its Symptoms, as I find them described in the Writings of the Ancients, who may perhaps have more weight with them than the Moderns, or Me their Contemporary, though I have Studied their Distemper with great Application, and, I hope, some little Success.

AND if they should once be convinced that they are really Mad, it is to be hoped, that they will apply themselves immediately to you *Gentlemen of the Faculty* in order to be cured of this terrible Malady. Should this happen, I would advise the Apothecaries to buy up all the *Hellebore* that they can lay
their

their Hands on, for, be assur'd, that Commodity will grow very dear.

FIRST then, CELSUS says, “* In a
 “ *Phrenitis* there is a continual depra-
 “ vation of the Senses, or if the Patient
 “ has some little use of 'em, his Imagina-
 “ tion is Wild and Extravagant. Some
 “ are merry, others sorrowful and dejected;
 “ some only talk idly, others are
 “ boisterous and rude; some make use of
 “ Artifice, others of Violence, to bring
 “ about their Mischievous Designs.”

“† THERE is, says the same Author,
 “ another kind of Madness, which does

* *Phrenitis* tum demum est, cum continua dementia esse incipit, aut cum æger, quamois adhuc sapiat, quasdam vanas Imagines accipit. — alij bilares, alij tristes sunt. — alij — intra verba desipiunt, alij insurgunt, & violenter quædam manufaciunt; atque ex his ipsis alij nihil nisi impetu peccant, alij etiam artes adhibent.

† *Tertium insanie genus est* — vitam ipsam non impedit. — Quidam Imaginibus non Mente fallunt, qualem insanientem *Ajacem* & *Orestem* Poetarum Fabulæ fecerunt: Quidam animo desipiunt. *Celsus Lib. 3. C. 18.*

B

“ not

“ not much endanger the Lives of the
 “ Patients. Some of these are terrified
 “ with groundless Apprehensions, as *Ajax*
 “ and *Orestes* are represented by the
 “ Poets; and some have their intellects
 “ weaken’d to a degree of Folly.”

I CHOOSE to make these Quotations from CELSUS rather than HIPPOCRATES, because Latin is more generally understood than Greek.

COELIUS AURELIANUS gives us the different Opinions of PLATO, EMPEDOCLES, and the STOICKS concerning Madnefs. “ * Some kinds, fays he, are caus’d
 “ by *Bacchus*, others by *Venus*, and some
 “ by *Apollo* and the Muses.” And again,

* ——— Alium ex Libero fieri Patre; alium ex Amore
 ——— alium ex Musis ——— Alterum divinum, five immif-
 fum, ejusque Appollinem inspiratorem effe. ——— Amor, vel
 Iracundia, aut Mæftitudo, vel timor, vel Superftitio nimia
 ——— Intentio nimia Sensus & intellectûs ob cupiditatem
 disciplinarum, vel quæftum pecuniam, aut gloriam. Cæl.
 Aurel. Morb. Chron. Lib. 1. Cap. 5.

“ Love,

“ Love, Anger, Sorrow, Fear, Superstition, are different Causes of this unhappy Effect; as also too great a fondness for Money, Glory, or Knowledge.”

Though I am of Opinion the want of a Passion for the last is more frequently the Cause.

THE same Writer informs us, that Madness is sometimes contagious, which some late Observations incline me to believe.

THESE short Extracts compar'd with the Accounts I am going to give of the abovemention'd Epidemical Madness, cannot fail to convince even the Possess'd themselves of their deplorable Condition, if they are ever so happy as to enjoy the least glimmerings of Reason, and will attend without Rage and Prejudice.

I AM now entring upon a very disagreeable part of my Undertaking, for it

must be a mortifying Speculation to a Man of common Humanity, to observe the various Phænomena of this *Proteiform Malady*, as they appear in different Persons, according as Constitution, Education, or particular Situations in Life, determine the Fury to break out in this or that peculiar Shape.

I WILL begin by giving an Account of its surprizing Effects on those in a high Sphere of Life, from whence I will trace it through all its various Meanders in different degrees of Mankind.

WHEN a Grandee or Minister of State is seized, his Imagination is so vitiated that he becomes the most whimsical inconsistent Creature upon the face of the Earth. He neglects or despises all real Dangers, terrifying himself with vain Apprehensions of Things that can never come to pass. For Example; 'tis not unusual for him to imagine that the *Cafres* and

and *Hottentots* of the Cape of *Good-Hope* are to join the *Spaniards* and *Cherokee-Indians*, and that this Quadruple Alliance is to fit out a Fleet of five hundred Sail, which is to have an hundred thousand Land-Forces aboard: These he foresees are to sail to *England*, with a resolution to destroy the establish'd Religion, and set up Quakerism in its stead. In order to avert this Calamity, he begs the King of *Spain*, that he would intreat the Great Duke of *Tuscany* to permit him to set up a *May-pole* in his Dominions.

As soon as this Favour is granted, we must equip a Fleet, which is to Convey several Regiments to *Italy*, who are to Dance round about this *May-pole*; but they have strict Orders to run their Heads against it with all their Force, tho' at the Expence of a broken Skull. At the same time they have the strongest Assurances of a Cure, if all the *Gens d'Arms*,

Arms, Dragoons, and Infantry of the Kings of *France*, *Spain*, and *Sardinia*, can perform one, though it should cost forty or fifty Millions. Then if you don't make Bonfires, and celebrate by all possible Demonstrations of Joy this *Coup de Maître* of Policy, incontinently you are a Rogue, a Traytor, a Jacobite, a Papist, a sturdy Beggar, or a Friend and Abetter of the Quakers. Such is their inconsistency in the violence of their Paroxysms.

AFTER such an instance of Phrenzy as this, it will not be surprizing to find the Distemper break out in very odd strains of Policy and extraordinary Maxims of State; for a Specimen of which take these few political Aphorisms, which they will frequently lay down with great Confidence, and defend with that Obstinacy usual with Madmen.

THE most expeditious Way of discharging the National Debt, is to squander our Revenues in Presents to every indigent petty State, that has the Impudence to beg Supplies of us: And to keep ten or twelve Thousand Foreigners in constant Pay, who can never possibly be of any Service to us.

THE only Method of preserving the Ballance of Europe is to make our most inveterate Enemies as powerful as we possibly can, and to aggrandize those who have done their utmost to break it whenever a fair Opportunity has offer'd, and whose interest it is to do so still.

THE only Way to encourage and advance our Trade, is to Compliment and assist a Nest of Pirates, at the very Time they are making continual Depredations, and Plundering our Trading Vessels.

NOT

NOT many Centuries ago, I have read, there was a vast Fleet fitted out to Chastise the Insolence of these Robbers, as was Apprehended; the Commander had his Commission delivered to him seal'd, which he was enjoin'd not to open till he had been at Sea a limited Time: It was his Duty to Obey, which he accordingly did, but was surprized to find his Orders run as follows.

*To the Admiral of the Puis-
sant Fleet, the most politick
Visier of the West, sendeth
Greeting.*

“ **Y**OU are to make the best of
“ your Way to *New Spain*, where
“ you are to find out the most unhealthy
“ and noisom Place that part of the
“ World will afford you; and there
“ you

“ you are to lye till fuch Time as Fa-
 “ mine, the Plague, and the Pox have
 “ made an End of two Thirds of you
 “ at leaft. Mean time if you fhould meet
 “ with the Pirates, and fee them take
 “ and pillage any of our Merchants Ships,
 “ you are to Laugh till you burft your
 “ Diaphragm, without taking any far-
 “ ther Notice; and fo I confign you over
 “ to eternal Damnation.”

THE Admiral's Life had been forfeit-
 ed by Difobedience; fo he endeavoured
 to perform what was enjoin'd him; but
 died of a broken Heart in the Execution.

THIS Madnefs is faid to have been
 aggravated to this Degree of Virulence
 by the Male-Practice of a *Spanish* Phy-
 fician, whose Name I have forgot, fent
 hither by the King his Master, under
 pretence of curing us of a certain kind
 of *Marasmus*, attended with a * *Boulimia*

* An infatiable Voracity.

and Thirst, which our *English* Grandees are very subject to. This he pretended to relieve by certain magnetical Applications to the Palms of the Hands by way of Amulet.

WE have had many such Practitioners sent us by the Kings of *France* and *Spain* out of pure Love and Kindness to their afflicted Neighbours.

I HAVE read of one Dr. *Gondemar*, a *Spaniard* in the Time of K. J---- the First, who was in great esteem for his Skill and Dexterity at this kind of Application, which indeed perform'd a Temporary Cure, but drove all the Patients Mad.

YOU, *Gentlemen of the Faculty*, who are perfectly vers'd in the τὸ Θεῖον of *Hippocrates*, the *Archeus* of the Chymists, and

and the Modern Exploits of the no less intelligent Animal Spirits, must be sensible that the loss of a little Blood would have perform'd a Cure, without the fatal Consequences of these pernicious Amulets, and much better secur'd the Patients from a relapse.

SINCE I have mention'd the Animal Spirits, indulge me in a small digression, that I may congratulate the Faculty upon those elaborate Theories of the Moderns, founded upon this important discovery. These great Philosophers throwing off the Yoke of the Ancients, and not contenting themselves with a strict Attention to common Sense, and Things observable by the Vulgar, have furnish'd us with Hypotheses of great Use when we talk to *Apothecaries, Nurses*, and other good Old Women, who frequently ask Questions very difficult to be answer'd rationally without the Assistance of these invisible Agents. Now this sublime Dia-

lest not only Satisfies their Curiosity, by confounding all manner of Ideas, but has another effect upon the Querist to our Advantage: For their Opinion of us rises in Proportion to their Ignorance of our Inability to account for the inexplicable Mysteries of Nature.

BUT to return to my Subject.

IN the Reign of our most Religious and Gracious K. C----- the Second, we had an Inundation of *French Quacks*; Retailers of Charms, who were permitted to practise upon that Monarch, when he us'd to be in danger of a *Marasmus* from some extraordinary spontaneous Evacuations. Many also of these Empirics were encourag'd during the Reign of his wise Successor; who ruin'd his Constitution without performing a Cure.

DURING

DURING the time of K. *W----* and Q. *A----*s Administration they were much laid aside, till about the Year ten one Dr. *d' Aumont* a Frenchman reviv'd the Practice. Those who are desirous to know the particular Symptoms of the then reigning Madness, may consult the conduct of the *English* at *Utrecht*, *Catalonia*, and *Quebec*.

IT would be inexcusable in me, if I omitted this Opportunity of celebrating the gratitude of *Great-Britain*, and doing Justice to our own Physicians. We in return for the Kindnesses of our Neighbours have frequently sent Members of our own College, when Madness has been Epidemical amongst them, who have practis'd generally with good Success.

TOWARDS the End of the last Century, and in the Beginning of the present, our poor Neighbours the *French*
were

were seiz'd with an unaccountable Phrenzy. They rav'd strangely of a great painted Butterfly with an hundred stings, which they called *Universal Monarchy*; and were angry at the *Dutch, English, and Germans*, for keeping this Extraordinary Insect from 'em.

THEY would likewise rove about in great Companies to the number of Four-score or a Hundred Thousand in quest of this imaginary Butterfly, throwing down their Neighbours Fences, letting out their Cattle, and doing them great Damage.

WHEN they became very troublesome to the *Emperor*, and had infected some of his Subjects with the same Distemper, one Doctor *John Churchill* was sent over to Cure them, which he happily perform'd by the following Method.

HAVING

HAVING found a great Number of them together in *Bavaria*, he first of all took away a great Quantity of Blood, and then made them suddenly take a leap into cold Water. This practise, which is exactly conformable to that of the *Greeks* and *Romans*, succeeded beyond Expectation.

As for Catharticks there was little occasion for them, because the Humours had a great tendency to pass off by Stool whenever the Doctor came within a League of 'em: So great is the force of Imagination!

IT has been apprehended that the *French* are at present in danger of a relapse. If that should happen, we shall again have an Opportunity of exercising our Humanity. I have been told that the President of our College has formerly practised successfully at an Hospital near
Oudenarde,

Oudenarde ; and that an Honorary Fellow one Dr. *Campbell* acquired much Experience and Fame by prescribing to these French Enthusiasts : Therefore should they unhappily relapse, the Remedy is at Hand.

BUT to return to our noble Maniacs--- According to an Observation of **COELIUS AURELIANUS**, which I before omitted with a design to mention it here, that the resemblance of the Ancient and Modern Madness might more plainly appear ; They sometimes fancy themselves * *Orators, Poets, Tragedians, Comedians*, and sometimes believe themselves invested with Regal Authority. And, endeavouring to act up to these imaginary Characters, expose their Phrenzy to all the World.

HENCE some less diligent Observers have taken occasion to pronounce them

* Sic denique furens alius se---- existimavit---- Oratorem, alius Tragœdum, vel Comœdum, -- ---- alius---- mundi se censum tenere.

Fools; not charitably considering that such wild Actions are owing to a Depravation of the intellectual Faculty occasion'd by a *Phlogosis Spirituum Animalium*, whose *Procatartick* cause is *Repletion*, as will more fully appear hereafter.

HOWEVER, though they should happen to be in the right, it will not break in upon my Theory, but may serve to reconcile the old Stoical Paradox, which asserts that all Fools are Mad.

I SHOULD not omit one Circumstance which is common to these with most other Lunatics, *viz.* that they believe themselves the only sober People in the Nation. And to such a degree of Extravagance do they carry this Whim, that they are perpetually distributing Papers and Books about the Kingdom, tending to persuade the World that their frantick Authors and Abettors are just, prudent, and politick, and that all Mankind be-

D

fides

fides are Villains, Madmen, or Ideots.

I SHALL now proceed to the Cure.

FROM the voraciouſneſs of their Appetites, and quickneſs of Diſteſtion we may eaſily apprehend the Diſtemper is owing to a *Plethora*; for which reaſon Evacuations of all kinds are indicated. Theſe however, muſt be uſed with Caution; for though ſome have been brought to Reaſon by Operations of this kind directed on purpoſe, and others, being reduced to a ſpare Diet by the loſs of their Eſtates, Places, and Penſions, have accidentally recover'd, yet a far greater number has been driven into a contrary and more deſtructive kind of Rage by the Regimen aforeſaid too ſeverely inſiſted upon.

WHEN I have diſpatched this kind of Madneſs I intend to give ſome Account of the other: Mean while it may not be improper to examine into the conduct

duct of some other Nations both Ancient and Modern, who have been afflicted with this dreadful Calamity.

THE *Athenians* in the cure of this kind of Madness prefer'd the juice of the *Cicuta* or *Hemlock* to *Hellebore*. They had also an Operation which they call'd *Ostracism*, which was a particular way of applying the *Testacea*, which are known to be great sweetners of the Blood.

THE *Romans* thought a fright would have a good effect upon the Spirits, as had been experienced in Love-maniacs, who us'd to leap from a Rock at the Promontory of Leucate, and pursuant to this opinion, sometimes cast the Patient from a precipice call'd the Tarpeian Rock. *Subito terrei & expavescere in hoc malo prodest*, says Celsus.

THE modern Method of Cure is somewhat different from the Ancients. The

Turks seem to think this Madness akin to that which is caus'd by the bite of the *Tarantula*; and his sublime Highness keeps certain Musicians constantly in pay, that they may be ready to perform upon their Instruments, in case any of his Ministers should upon a sudden Emergency have occasion for them. These are call'd *Mutes*, and play upon a single-string'd Instrument, which bears some resemblance to the British HURDY-GURDY.

THE Munificent Kings of *France* have provided an Hospital for the Entertainment of their Maniacs, commonly known by the Name of the *Bastile*: Nor do we want one; though it is not so often made use of as might be wish'd: However when it is, our Physicians seem to think Musick necessary: But we make an Addition to the Oriental single-string'd Instrument, and force the Patients to join in Concert with the Performers, who are not *Mutes*: This is practis'd with so much

much success, that generally after the singing a Psalm or two, the diseased falls a capering and dancing as long as his Breath will last, and, as soon as the Jig is over, becomes as grave and sober as if he had never been Mad.

I HAVE also known bleeding plentifully in the internal jugular Veins, *usque ad animi deliquium* of singular Service; but this being a bold piece of practice, Physicians don't care to venture upon it, unless in extreme necessity, for fear of being call'd to account for it, though it should succeed.

THIS Method was very much in vogue in the Reign of K. C----- the Second, and was prescrib'd to several who either were not in the least Mad, or if a little infected, might have been cured by Operations less violent. And perhaps this is the Reason why the Practice has been pretty much laid aside.

IN

IN others the same Distemper appears with some variation of Symptoms, verging towards Melancholy. These are perpetually raving against the Iniquity of the Times, Evil Ministers, Bribery, Corruption, and a thousand Chimeras which have no existence but in their deprav'd Imaginations.

SOMETIMES they will shriek out all on a sudden, and swear there is an Exciseman in a corner of the Room, with his Breeches down, and will throw a Glass of Wine in your Face, if you don't confess you smell an abominable stink. At another time this imaginary Exciseman has a design upon their Teeth, their Snuff-boxes, their Eyes, or Tobacco-stoppers.

IT is very remarkable, that all who are affected in this Manner have a particular Regard and Veneration for each other, and a most extravagant Aversion to every Body

Body besides. When they meet with any Stranger, the first thing they do is to feel his Pulse, and if they perceive it beats like their own, they are immediately seiz'd with a Sympathetick Pharoxyfm, and embracing him, howl, and sigh, and groan, and lament the destiny of their bleeding Country; never regarding whether he is a Bishop, or a Tinker, a Judge or a T---T---man, a Privy-Councillor, or a Prize-Fighter. Then will they sit down and drink to great excess; and no sooner are they elevated to a certain pitch, but they draw their Swords, and threaten with horrid Imprecations to cut off every Mans Ears who will not think and act as they do, and assist them in redressing their imaginary Grievances.

'Tis very fortunate that this Species of Madness is attended with an uncommon * *Androphobia*, otherwise the Con-

* A dread of Men.

sequences

sequences might be fatal. But should they meet with any Man in his Senses, that alone is reason sufficient for their displeasure, which will break out, as soon as ever his back is turn'd, in Words very familiar to them, such as Idiot, Puppy, Scoundrel, Betrayer of his Country, and many other well-bred Expressions of the like kind.

PATRIOTISM is what they above all Things affect: For this Reason you will see Multitudes of them entering Cities and Boroughs in Cavalcade, playing ten thousand Monkey-tricks, and throwing away immense sums to the Populace, while their Tradesmen go unpaid, and their Families are ruin'd and starv'd.

-----*Neque enim loculis comitantibus itur,*
 -----*Posita sed luditur Arca.*

JUV. SAT. I.

THEY

THEY are passionately fond of an Entertainment of their own Invention, which they call *Hunting the VISIER AZEM*. This odd kind of Diversion consists in opposing him in every thing he does, not regarding in the least whether it be right or wrong. And if they meet with a Disappointment in the Chace, which generally happens, they immediately fall into Convulsions, screaming, kicking, scratching, biting, and raving of Liberty, Property, Places, Pensions, the golden Age, red and blue Ribbons, standing Armies, the Millennium, and a thousand other Inconsistencies, without any manner of Order or Connexion. But they must be very far gone before they arrive at this pitch of Extravagance.

WHILST such are disturbing the Peace of Mankind in populous Cities, others of a more saturnine Complexion retire into the Country, and divert themselves

selves with beating and kicking their Servants, Wives, and Children, and knocking down every old Woman and Ragman that comes in their way: Nor do their rational Neighbours escape Persecution, if these Lunaticks ever have it in their Power to injure them.

'Tis observ'd that all the abandon'd Rakes, Atheists, and Prostitutes have this troublesome Distemper complicated with a filthy Disease which I don't care to Name.

As that species of Madness I first describ'd, proceeds from a *Plethora*, this has a quite different Cause, *viz.* Emptiness, which the dissection of several who have died raving, confirms; in these the *Glandula Pinealis* was scarce so big as a Pins head, the *Cerebellum* dry, shrivel'd, and of a less bulk than usual, and few or no traces of Ideas could be observ'd in the *Corpus Callosum*.

I apprehend this to be akin to that which our Judicious Countryman Dr. Sydenham informs us is sometimes the consequence of profuse Evacuations, for I myself know many Cases where the Patient has run stark Mad, upon being reduced to a low diet, by the loss of a Place or Pension, as was before hinted at.

HOWEVER this hazards the Patients Life more than the former, nor is it less dangerous to others, for they are exceedingly dextrous at plotting Mischief, unless carefully watch'd. This is so exactly conformable to what CELSUS has observ'd that I can't forbear giving you the passage in his own Words. * *Alij artes adhibent, summanque speciem sanitatis in captandis malorum operum occasionibus præbent, sed exitu deprehenduntur.* Therefore they are not to be trusted.

* Celsus. Lib. 3. Cap. 18.

THE Methods of Cure which have been recommended in the first species are rather too violent in this; Indeed the practise of Bleeding in the internal Jugulars was successfully applied to this Disease about Fifteen, when it was very Epidemical, and the Patients extremely wild and raging: But I rather blame the Doctors who directed it, for I am convinced by a Multitude of cases that the Method of cure by *Evacuations* is too rough, and that RESTORATIVES seldom fail of success. I do not however much disapprove dry Frictions, which are recommended by the use ASCLEPIADES made of them, who practis'd at Rome in the Time of the War with PHYRRHUS, These should be perform'd with a modern *Strigil* call'd a *Cat of Nine-Tails*; and for want of such an Instrument, I have known a Remission procured by a succedaneous *Cudgel* or *Horse-whip*.

THIS

THIS *Mania* has a great tendency to a Species of Madness formerly so epidemical in these Kingdoms, that few or none escaped the Infection. Dr. *Swift*, an eminent Physician has given an account of it in the Case of a certain Nobleman, whose Name was *Peter*; this illustrious Person would have persuaded his Family that all manner of Meats and Drinks were contained in a piece of dry Bread, and that every Body would be damn'd who did not believe so. He would also curse and swear, and fall into violent ravings, if you did not think so too. You will find a particular account of the Symptoms at large in the above-mentioned Author, to whom I refer you.

FOR a great many Centuries the most Eminent in the Profession could find no cure for this unaccountable Malady, till at last one Dr. *Harry Tudor* (for the Physicians themselves were also infected) being

ing extravagantly ill of this Phrenzy, even so far as to write a Book in its defence, in time perceiv'd that Nature endeavoured to throw off the Distemper by a kind of *Crisis*, which periodically affected the *Pudenda* with an extraordinary Tumor.

HENCE judging the Distemper to arise from a *Deleterium quid in Spiritibus Animalibus delitescens*, he apply'd himself to find out a Cure with great Success: For making some Experiments upon whole Societies of these Franticks, who had retired into Hospitals erected in the richest and most beautiful Situations of the Kingdom, by the exuberant Charity of weak Women, departing Misers, and expiring Tyrants, and finding these periodical Tumors in the *Pudenda*, with which most of them were affected to a violent degree, had not so salutary effects upon them, as he had experienced in himself; he like a wise Physician follow'd the steps
of

of Nature, and supplied the defect in this *Crisis* by supplemental Evacuations of another kind. By this Treatment almost the whole Nation was cured.

INDEED sometime after, an ignorant quacking Woman call'd MAD MOLL had like to have made us all relapse, for her Education being such as by no means qualified her for the practice of Physick, she would often mistake the case, and take it into her head that certain People were Mad, though not one Symptom of it appear'd, but the contrary. These she would confine without regard to Rank, Age, or Sex, and order them to be whip'd, and lose vast quantities of Blood. She was also passionately fond of the hot Regimen, and would almost roast her Patients by excessive Fires.

THESE Operations kill'd some, others went Mad in earnest, and the rest were forced to dissemble it, for fear of having
their

their case mistook. Her Stages were erected in many parts of this Kingdom, and at this day there are the remains of one near *Baliol College* in *Oxford*.

H A D not her Death prevented it, 'tis likely she would have been call'd to account for Male-practice, as were a Race of Physicians whose Names were S----- half a Century after ; and indeed we had all been driven Mad by one Dr. J--- S--- since deceased, had not this Method been taken.

A B O U T the Year Twelve we were again in some danger, which has been said to be owing to the Ignorance or Villany of an eminent Apothecary one H--- S--- J---n, conspiring with a *Diatheſis inflammatoria* then reigning.

T H E S E Physicians were Presidents of a College in *Westminster*, consisting of Honorary Fellows, and others that were elect,

elect, to the number of six or seven Hundred. Now these Presidents have sometimes had the Misfortune to be a little touch'd, and have set up for themselves, without the Assistance or Advice of their Collegues; and upon a Remonstrance from the Members, have flown into strange vagaries; raving of an Encroachment upon their Prerogative, cursing and swearing, and stamping, throwing their Hats and Wigs into the Fire, and affirming themselves to be the sole Arbiters of Practice, and that the rest were only Slaves and Apothecaries to make up what Medicines they should vouchsafe to direct. Such always turn'd out most execrable Practitioners, and have constantly been expell'd to prevent Mischief.

NOTHING can be more deplorable than the above-mention'd Distemper when it seizes on the Reverend the Clergy. For then the Directors of the Faithful, the Sources of Knowledge, the Lumina-
ries

ries of the World, behave as if possess'd with more Devils than enter'd into the *Samaritan* Herd of Swine. So various and extraordinary are its Appearances in these Holy Men.

S O M E, whose Intellects are naturally weak, affect a strange kind of Gravity and Reserve; and fancying themselves Ambassadors, Lords, or Princes, treat with the utmost Insolence the Vulgar and unsanctify'd: So they are pleas'd to think every body besides themselves, with a Reserve only to such as have the disposal of any considerable Church Preferment: As the *Greeks* treated the rest of the World as *Barbarians*; and the *Jews* were only civil to those Potentates who assisted them in building or beautifying their Temple. Mean time to such as have it in their power to encrease their Revenues, are they the most abject fawning Slaves upon the face of the Earth. These are ador'd more than the Eastern Monarchs, and
with

with a greater Excess of Flattery; as may be seen in the Reverend Mr. D----s Dedication prefix'd to a Latin Translation of *Castiglioni's Corteggiano*; where the present Lord M----- is complimented upon his great Abilities for Wrestling, and kicking Foot-ball; tho' he is one of the least Men in *England*, and the most unlikely to excel at such kind of Exercises.

M A N Y Instances of this may also be found in the Works of a certain Poetical and Frolicksome Divine, a

* *Polite Apostate from God's Grace to wit*

as he himself informs us; thereby prostituting his Religion and the Grace he mentions to a low Witticism. This unfortunate Gentleman, neglecting the severer studies of Divinity, and applying himself to the Muses, made himself much taken notice of for certain Essays in Metre upon the Love of Fame, and some of the most exe-

* *Vid.* Universal Passion.

crable Sermons that ever were preach'd or printed.

THE same Person in a fit of Lunacy some years ago, took a strange aversion to SHAKESPEARE; infomuch that during the Operation of such Catharticks as his Physicians thought proper to direct, he would make use of nothing but a leaf out of this Dramatick Writer: And this Whim he continu'd till he had utterly spoil'd that celebrated Tragedy, the *Moor of Venice*. Those who have a mind to be acquainted with more particulars of his Case, may form a just Idea of it by perusing *the Ocean*, and other fulsom pieces of Poetry, by the same Author, publish'd in subsequent Paroxysms.

BUT to return from this Digression.---

IF any of their unhallow'd Inferiors, as they call 'em, take the Wall, or accidentally tread upon their Toes, they will

curse 'em with a shew of great sanctity, and affirm they have forfeited all pretence to eternal Salvation by so impious and horrid a Sacrilege.

THEY never omit an opportunity of contradicting any one who happens to affirm a Truth in their presence, tho' never so plain and intelligible. And to reason with 'em is doing nothing; for tho' you prove your Assertion from EUCLID or SIR ISAAC NEWTON, all the effect it has is to set them a cursing you and all the Mathematicians in the World, till they are out of Breath, and calling you a stupid Coxcomb, an Atheist, and an Enemy to the Church: For they will tell you that their Grandmothers and Nurses believ'd the contrary, and therefore tho' ARCHIMEDES was to rise from the dead, they would neither be convinc'd by a Demonstration nor a Miracle.

BUT

BUT if you once contradict any of these, immediately laying aside all regard to the great Duty of Charity, they become your irreconcilable Enemies, pursuing the Offender with Vengeance to his utter Destruction, if they are able to accomplish it.

SINCE Madnets has been so Epidemical, this Spirit of Persecution has been of great prejudice to the Interests of Religion; and has made more Infidels than all the superficial Arguments of profess'd Atheists and Libertines against Christianity. For whilst these Maniacs extol Humility, Meekness, Charity, Patience and Humanity; and at the same time Mankind with open Eyes behold 'em Proud, Passionate, Cruel and Revengefull; weak Minds will naturally conclude that their Teachers are not in earnest, but in reality Infidels themselves; since their Practice so manifestly gives the lye to their

their Doctrines, and they neglect themselves those Duties, which they affirm to be the Conditions of Salvation to others.

BUT the Wiser should consider, that such *Conduct* is not owing to Artifice; but is a *Symptom* of the Epidemical Madness I have been describing; against which Reason is of no more Efficacy, than against the Paroxysm of an Ague: Or the celebrated Apathy of the STOICKS, against the Torments of the Gout or Stone.

IN others of these afflicted Fathers the Distemper is attended with a very odd Circumstance, which may be call'd, not improperly, *Cynanthropia*, from the Patients affection for the company of Dogs. Perhaps this may be that sort of Madness which COELIUS AURELIANUS informs us was call'd *Mania* from a Greek Word which signifies to be alone, in regard to the Passion these Maniacs have

have for Solitude. These you will see ranging the Desarts, and traversing the Fields accompany'd only with Dogs, whom they are perpetually talking to and treating as Rational Creatures : Tho' sometimes they will fall into violent Rages, and beat the unfortunate Animals most unmercifully.

OTHERS, like DOMITIAN, are passionately fond of playing with Flies; inso-much that if the Season of the Year, or any Accident prevents their getting 'em, you will see these distressed Artificers as intent upon counterfeiting these Insects, as if the Welfare of the Church depended upon their Industry and Application to this Entertainment. These think, because the Apostles were Fishermen, and left their Trades to preach the Gospel, that they are indispensably oblig'd to abandon the Trade of preaching, and turn Fishermen by a whimsical *Vice Versa* Rule, which they religiously adhere to.

IT is an Observation of one of the *Antients, that Maniacs learn Astronomy without being Taught. Ours indeed are no great Astronomers; but they have a surprising Facility at learning Backgammon, Whisk, All-Fours, and such elegant and useful Sciences, as if they were inspir'd. You seldom meet with one who is not an extraordinary Bowler, inso-much that they will hazard the Revenue of a whole Week upon the Success of a single Bowl.

THEY will also frequently be terrify'd with Apprehensions that the King is sending a Regiment of Dragoons to Piss down the Church-porch, and insinuate that the Church itself will be next attack'd.

THEY have one unaccountable Symptom attending, which is, that they fall

* Aretæus

asleep, or become blind immediately upon taking a Latin Book into their Hands. They have also as great an aversion to Greek, but more particularly to Hebrew Characters, as those who have been bit by a Mad-Dog have to Water. Indeed our Maniacs have no relish for Water; but Fluids of most other Kinds they are extreamly fond of, and will swallow down in great Quantities.

'TIS farther Remarkable that most of these are affected with a *Satyriasis*, very troublesome to themselves and Neighbours; which is manifestly morbid, because of its violence.

THE Method of Cure in these Cases is a particular kind of rough *Sinapism* or *Vesication*; something like what the Vulgar improperly call, *striping their Gowns over their Ears*. But I recommend it to you Gentlemen of the College,

lege, seriously to consider of some proper Specifick, which may be more effectual than any hitherto discover'd against such enormous Symptoms.

I MAKE no doubt but that the infected will be outragiously angry at me for attempting their Cure. But from the sober part of the Clergy I expect other Treatment. Let such be assur'd that no Man living has a greater Veneration for them than my self; and that one great design of my writing this Treatise was, to weed out of their Order so reproachfull and pernicious a Dis-temper.

BUT amongst all the melancholy effects of this raging Disorder, none appears more worthy of Attention than the Case of the tender Sex. For when a Lady is seiz'd, which frequently happens about the Age of Fifteen, she im-

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mediately

mediately fancies herself a Nymph, an Angel, or a Goddess. And throwing off all manner of regard to the greatest Duties of Life, she harnesses herself with a load of Ribbons, Tinsel, and all manner of insignificant Fopperies, and spends her Time in running from one publick place to another; and all this to afford and vouchsafe an Opportunity of Adoration to our Inferiour Sex.

SOME pretend there is a *Furor Uterinus* generally attending, of which these fallies are only Symptoms: But I can't pretend to determine whether there is or not, having practis'd very little upon this sort of Maniacs. However thus far is certain, that they usually lay hold of the first opportunity that offers of retiring privately with the most worthless Fellow they can find; and upon these Occasions they are subject to Fits, which
make

make 'em tumble Backwards, and fall into strange Convulsions.

THEY have one Singularity peculiar to themselves and Turkeys: For if you hang a piece of Scarlet Cloath upon a Fellows Shoulders, they will follow him with the utmost eagerness all over the World. This however must be understood of the Younger sort; for the more experienc'd, as I have frequently observ'd, are fonder of Black; especially if the *Furor* is very strong upon 'em.

THIS Phrenzy often comes to a *Crisis*, and fixes upon the * *Abdomen*, which appears swell'd as in a † *Tympanitis*. But in process of Time this *Tumor* is discharg'd by proper Critical Evacuations, and the Patient is well for some time, tho' very subject to Relapses.

* The lower Belly.

† A kind of Dropsy.

I FIND this Distemper is not peculiar to my Fair Country-Women; but on the contrary very Antient, and frequent amongst the Greek and Roman Ladies.

HOMER tells us of one * *Polymele* a famous Dancer, the Daughter of *Phylas*, who retiring to the top of a House with one *Hermes* a Highwayman and Pick-pocket, was seiz'd with such a Paroxysm as the abovemention'd, and afterwards with a Tumor, of which she got cur'd in a reasonable Time.

JUVENAL informs us that the Roman Empress † *Julia* was very subject to these Tumors; but being a little impati-

* *Vid. Hom. Il. 16. V. 180.*

† Cum tot abortivis fecundam Julia vulvam
Solveret, & patruo fimiles effunderet offas.

Juv. Sat. 2.

ent she would never let 'em come to maturity, but us'd to forward the discharge too precipitately; and for this reason relaps'd so often, that I am afraid by the Circumstances it must be a long time before she got cur'd.

TACITUS also gives us some secret Memoirs of the Empress *Messalina*; by which it appears she was not entirely free from a Madness very like that I have been describing of the modern Ladies. Many other celebrated Instances may be met with in the Writings of the Ancients.

GIVE me leave to assign a probable Reason, why this Phrenzy takes such an extravagant Turn in the Fair Sex.

THERE are in every corner of this populous City certain Physicians, Followers of HERODICUS, who was the
first

first that apply'd the *Gymnastick Art* to Medicinal Purposes. To the Care of these it is the custom to commit the British Ladies very young, in order to be instructed in the Art of using all the Organs Nature has furnish'd 'em with to the greatest Advantage. This was also a Roman Custom, as may be collected from *Horace*, who seems to have been well acquainted with it,

*Motus doceri gaudet Jonicos
Matura Virgo, & fingitur artubus
Jam nunc, & incestos amores
De tenero meditatur ungui.*

*Mox juniores quærit Adulteros
Inter Mariti vina-----*

Hor. Carm. L. 3. Od. 6.

WHAT effects this may have upon a tender Imagination; and what a Turn it may give to the abovesaid Distemper,

I need not be tedious in explaining to you Gentlemen, who are abundantly conversant in all kinds of Natural and Experimental Philosophy.

IT may not be amiss however to observe that the *Gymnastick Art* takes its Denomination from γυμνός, which signifies *naked*; because the ancient Exercises were perform'd without any Covering. But in our Northern Climate the Professors indulge their Pupils in the use of Cloaths, whilst they are Learning; but so soon as they are arriv'd at any degree of Perfection, they are encourag'd to Practise what they have learn'd naked, as far as the Waist at least, as is the manner of some; or in their Shifts only.

THERE is another species of Mad-ness with which our young Gentlemen are greatly afflicted, and which I chuse to treat of in this Place, because it makes

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the

the Patient become a Woman in every Instance that Nature will admit of: As in Dress, Conversation, Delicacy, Sentiments, Diversions, and Taste. They industriously avoid the Society of any thing that has the Appearance of a Man, and affect the Company of Females only: Not with any sinister Designs; for I must do 'em the Justice to say they are incapable of doing any Mischief.

THIS explains a passage in HERODOTUS, which is somewhat obscure, and has given his Interpreters a great deal of Trouble. That Historian informs us that the Goddess VENUS sent amongst the *Scythians*, the *Θηλεῖα ἄνθρωποι*, in revenge for their having violated her Temple. These words have been variously explain'd: But I am satisfy'd the Criticks are generally mistaken; for *Herodotus* certainly means that the Goddess plagu'd the *Scythians* with such a Distemper as
our

our modern Beaux are troubled with. And this Conjecture is supported by a Passage in *Hippocrates*, who says, that People were remarkable for their Impotence.

I AM furthermore greatly Mistaken if COELIUS AURELIANUS does not describe the Case I am at present treating of, in his Chapter * *de Mollibus sive subactis*, which the curious Reader may consult.

As to the Cure of our Fair Maniacs, I know of none that will effectually guard against a Relapse, though many ways have been try'd. The *Spaniards* have a † *Prophylactick* Operation, which is perform'd by means of a *Padlock*. But the Ladies of *Great-Britain* have such

* C. 9. L. 4. Morb. Chron.

† Preservative.

an Abhorrence of this Practice, that I think it is never likely to prevail amongst us.

I ENTIRELY disapprove of the *Exorcism* perform'd by the Priest, whilst the Patient stands before him in a *White-Sheet*. For this generally makes her grow worse. The only Things I shall recommend are Strong Exercise and Hard-Labour; which may be equally Serviceable to the Ladies and Gentlemen above-mention'd, and may with a proper Regimen do Wonders. The former will find their Account in beating Hemp. The latter may have an Opportunity of endeavouring at least to serve their Country in the ensuing War, at the same time that they are pursuing a Cure. But if they should decline this, I would humbly advise that they may be oblig'd to assist the Ladies.

THE last species of Madness I shall take notice of, is more pernicious in its Consequences to others than any I have hitherto treated of, and worse to the Patients themselves; because of the bad effects it has upon their Morality: For these unfortunate Gentlemen have a system of Ethicks peculiar to themselves; very different from that of *Plato*, and all other Philosophers, and directly contrary to that of the Holy Scripture in every Article.

THEY are perpetually raving of Justice, at the same time that they are exceedingly industrious, and indeed dexterous in perverting it, and turning it into the Channels of Injury and Oppression: Infomuch that he is in the most esteem, who has, by the greatest Pains and Application, best qualify'd himself for the Society of Hell.

THAT

THAT this Assertion may appear beyond a possibility of Contradiction, I will give you one of their Maxims by way of Example, which I have chosen from amongst abundance of others too flagitious to be even mention'd. 'Tis an Article of their Faith, that 'tis meritorious to assist a Friend or a Stranger, (for 'tis equal to them) with all the Artifice and Eloquence they are Masters of, in any Controversy, tho' they should not be certain he is in the right; nay, notwithstanding they are convinc'd he is entirely in the wrong: Nor do they in the least regard, that if the Adversary has Justice on his side, they are committing the most flagrant piece of Villany Human Nature is capable of. This is a strain even beyond the Courage of the *Swiss*; for they only venture their Bodies, without enquiring into the Merits of the Cause they are engag'd in; whereas our Mani-

acs brave even Hell itself at a much greater hazard.

IT has indeed the Appearance of great Complaisance, that these unhappy People should risque so much, in order to serve a Man perfectly indifferent to em. But this obliging Temper has farther Views: For the Consequences always make it plainly appear, that such extraordinary Kindnesses are intended chiefly to gain Opportunities of Picking-pockets: This is a Diversion they take great delight in; and at which they are so dexterous, that by a Sympathetick Magick peculiar to themselves, they will do it at the distance of an hundred Leagues.

WHAT I have said must be understood of the soberer part: For such as have the Distemper to any great degree, will make court to each of the contending Parties, in order to serve them both alike.

T H E S E

THESE and the *Spanish* Madmen of the Inquisition, are by most People and Nations justly esteem'd the Scandal and Reproach of Human Nature. But it would be a very difficult task to determine which of the two are worst.

FROM the extream Virulence of this Disease many have thought its specifick Cause to be the same with that of the ancient Demoniacs, or possess'd with Devils; since nothing less could produce such horrid Symptoms. And indeed there is a great similitude between 'em.

THE Accounts the Greek Physicians, *Oribasius*, *Ætius*, and *Ægineta* give us of these Demoniacs is, that they frequent the Tombs, and howl like Wolves; (Whence the name of *Lucanthropia* has been given to this Disorder.) As also that this Distemper rages most at the
latter

latter end of *January* and beginning of *February*; and again in *October* and *November*. And in *England* about the same Times of the Year near *Westminster-Abbey* are always found Multitudes of

* *These yelling Monsters that with ceaseless cry,*

howl in such a manner that the sacred Fabrick and adjacent Hall horribly resound with the hideous Clamour.

AND to this Place at the Seasons aforesaid do abundance of these Maniacs resort from all parts of the Kingdom.

THE great conformity betwixt this modern Disorder and the ancient Demoniacism, will no doubt convince superficial Observers, who have been inclin'd to

* *Vid. Paradise Lost. Book 2. Ver. 795.*

impute this Conduct to a Selfish and Knavish Malignity, that the Case is really Morbid, however it may have appear'd to them. And the universal Benevolence I have for the whole Race of Mankind inclines me to hope, that the Depravation or Loss of their Understandings will make the Curses of Widows and Orphans fall lighter upon them; for undoubtedly without such an Alleviation they would deserve the utmost that could be imprecated against 'em.

HOWEVER as this *Mania* is very Contagious as well as Diabolical, the Disorder'd, who are exceedingly numerous, demand at least some care in this World, whatever may be their fate in the next.

THEREFORE since I don't in the least expect to relieve the minutest Symptom of so stubborn a Disease by any
Pre-

Prescriptions of my own, all I can do is to recommend 'em to Dr. John Ketch, who, tho' an Emperick, is the only Man I ever yet heard of, that could boast of the least Success in his Practice upon this kind of Maniacs. It seems he has a Family-secret, which never fails of performing a Cure; tho' I have been told it throws the Patient into a very dangerous *Asthma*. However it is the Interest both of the Distemper'd and of the Commonwealth, that something should be attempted at all hazards.

OTHER Experiments have been try'd upon these Maniacs; as Bleeding in the Ears, Cataplasms of Turnip tops, and Liniments compos'd of rotten Eggs, commonly call'd *Linimenta ex Ovo*; but all to no manner of purpose. Even the late endeavours of our illustrious College to promote this desirable end have hitherto been ineffectual. Some very competent

Judges have not scrupled to affirm that the Symptoms have been so exasperated by these honest Attempts, that in their Opinion the utter extermination of these Maniacs from the Face of the Earth is absolutely necessary to the Repose of Mankind.

THE ill success of the College has been matter of Astonishment to all the World, that is acquainted with the Honour, Learning, and Wisdom of the Members: But it becomes less wonderful, when 'tis consider'd, that several have been elected Fellows, who are strongly suspected of having no small degree of Infection; and therefore are unwilling to concur in prescribing Physick, which they themselves would be oblig'd to take. Now these are too artful to patronize their own Madness openly, (For Maniacs exceed other People in Cunning, as ARISTOTLE observes,) but abusing the
con-

confidence plac'd in 'em by their Collegues, they have taken care so to embarrass the Counsels of their Brethren, whenever this Affair has been under their Consideration, that every innovation in Practice has aggravated the Distemper to such a degree, that I really believe one other Amendment would ruin the whole Nation, unless the interested Fellows above-mention'd are expell'd before 'tis attempted.

IF such a thing should ever happen, I apprehend the Compassion I have for these Maniacs, and such as are miserably affected by their Conduct, would have ample matter wherewith to gratify itself. For then might I hope to see one or other of the *Ketch* Family licens'd and fix'd in every large Town of *Great-Britain*, for the benefit of such as are most Raging; and the Hospital of *Newgate* enlarg'd, and converted into a Lazar, for the Reception

ception of all that are in a less degree infected.

THESE Things I recommend to the serious Consideration of those whose Duty it is to watch over the Health of the Nation.

THERE is one Circumstance which is common to all sorts of Madness, in-
somuch that it seems to be its Character-
istick, or *Proprium quarto modo*, as the
Logicians express themselves. This is a
violent and unaccountable Aversion which
the Patients take to their Physician,
Therefore if any Persons should be ob-
serv'd to rail against and abuse the Au-
thor of these Sheets, let them be imme-
diately seiz'd and confin'd; for depend
upon it they are infected with one kind
or other of those Madneses I have been
treating of: Otherwise they have no
just cause of Complaint against me. If
they

they are in their sober Senses, why should they list voluntarily into any particular Class of Maniacs?

As for the Lunaticks themselves, I have treated 'em with all imaginable Tendernefs; and have not in the least aggravated the Misfortunes of the wretched. Therefore let them take Care: For tho' I don't much regard what People say who are not themselves; yet 'tis possible I may not always keep my Temper. And if I am provok'd, I shall publish a List of particular Madmen, in ten Volumes in Folio, which I have now by me, and will be ready for the Press so soon as my *Amanuensis* has transcrib'd them.

P O S T S C R I P T.

I PURPOSELY omitted treating at large that species of Madness which is caus'd by APOLLO and the MUSES, because I would not interfere with Dr. *Alexander*

Pope, who seems to have undertaken those that are afflicted with it by the *Great*. As they are in very good Hands, I shall only observe that his Namesake *Alexander* the Son of *Phillip*, who in every thing form'd himself upon the Model of *Achilles*, did the Professors of Physick the Honour of Studying their Art, in imitation of that Hero. This Monarch was the first who found out a Cure for this kind of Phrenzy, having made a successful Experiment upon one *Cheerilus*, who was affected with it to a miserable Degree: And ever since, a Box on the Ear, or Kick on the Breech has always procur'd a Remission at least; and proper Repetitions of the same have seldom fail'd of performing an entire Cure.

F I N I S.

